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**Cc:** Carrie Wilson; Duncan McIntosh-Publisher The Log Newspaper; Fishing & Hunting News; Joel Greenberg; Ronnie Kovach's Popular Fishing Expeditions Talk Radio Show on Saturday 5-7 AM on KRLA 879-AM; Salt Water Sportsman Magazine; Shawn Arnold -THE FISH TACO CHRONICLES; Southern California's Sportfishing Voice - LET'S TALK HOOKUP TALK RADIO SHOW every Sat. & Sun. from 7 to 9 AM ON 1090-AM Starring - Pete Gray & Co-Starring Rock Cod Rick Maxa; SPORTS AFIELD MAGAZINE; Steve Carson, Co-Host of Ronnie Kovach's Fishing Expeditions Radio Show and On The Water Fishing University; THE OUTDOOR CHANNEL; Western Fishing and Boating Radio; WESTERN OUTDOORS - Fishing Contests - Last Week's Fishing & Hunting News; SANTA MONICA BAYKEEPER; Kris Haddad-Environment Now; Lynne Plambake - SCOPE; CALIFORNIA FISH & GAME COMMISSION; Don McIsaac Pacific Fishery Management Council; Forbes Darby - National Team Lead Recreational Fisheries - NOAA; Karen Brubeck - National Sanctuary Program - NOAA; Melissa Miller-Henson

**Subject:** How Things Really Work In The Ocean - A Layman's View

## How Things Really Work In The Ocean - A Layman's View

At one of the many DFG Commission Public Meetings I have attended, I sat next to a typical, little, old, lady "Environmentalist". I knew she was because they were all wearing Blue, while the sport fishermen were wearing red.

Finally, it was her turn to stand with the portable microphone and address the Commissar's facing us us on their dais.

She said, in essence, I don't go to the beach much anymore. I don't fish or dive.

But, it makes me feel good in my heart, TO KNOW, that somewhere the little fishes will be safe!

Safe? From whom? THOSE MEAN FISHERMEN.

The little old lady's vision of how the ocean really works was based on the anthropomorphism she has watched at the movies and on TV all of her life.

A world beneath the sea, where the cute little fishies swim in schools and go to school. They sing and dance and wear pants. They have fish houses with living room furniture and watch TV. The only difference is that cute little bubbles constantly rise, one at a time in streams from the cute little fishy's mouths.

The real ocean is monstrously huge and while connected throughout the world, is divided by continents and huge mysterious currents and winds.

Add in the seasons and what remains is still an undiscovered frontier.

The fish eat each other. Fish are mean. They eat their own young.

Fish will tear other fish apart when not hungry.

Fish are size prejudice. That's why school swim together with others of the same size. They attack or eat smaller fish, even of their own species.

Fish do not talk or communicate. They have tiny brains.

There are no peaceful fish.

Fish do don't have hands or feet.

Their mouth is it.

Fish are territorial. They will drive off smaller fish from their protected territory.

Fish make zillions of eggs which then are fertilized by huge clouds of sperm.

Zillions of fish eggs follow the currents, as influenced by the weather all over the ocean.

The temperature of the ocean in large part decides where species thrive or die.

Everything in the ocean is constantly eating everything else.

Fish like structure. It offers protection and provides territory and food.

Fish move around a lot.

A good rock cave will support and encourage the growth of a Groper.

When coastal water temperatures change, the fish move to different depths.

Fish do like polluted water.

Fish cannot survive sudden, massive water temperature changes.

When fish have eaten everything they were feeding on, they move on.

Fish engage in feeding frenzies just like Sharks.

Fish will always attack a crippled fish.

Fish eat, breed and swim.

Many fish hide in the rocks at night.

These are all sound reasons that more Sport Fishing Closures will not work, and are not needed in Southern California.

Only when everything is totally depleted, like in huge sections of the Sea Of Cortez where the entire eco-system has collapsed, are fishing closures and reserves warranted.

While the MLPA advocates continue to campaign for a solution to a problem that can't be fixed by Closures, based on a world they learned from watching TV and reading funny books, the ecosystem remains mostly effected by our continued dumping of zillions of tons of SLUDGE into the ocean all up and down the coast.

This Sludge (Gray mud like fine particulates) covers the near shore ocean bottom and chokes off life.

We must stop dumping our Feces, etc. in OUR ocean!

We can build clean, artificial reefs that rise above the miles of dead mud to let sea life prosper.

Or you folks can continue to pretend life is a Disney movie.

Ace In Pearblossom

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